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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-3820-79

20 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM : NIO for East Asia and Pacific

SUBJECT : Views on the North Korean Response to the US-ROK
Proposal for Tripartite Talks

1. Action Requested: None; for your information.
2. Background: Intelligence analysts and foreign policy planners share the perception that initial North Korean response to the US-ROK proposal for tripartite talks was quite negative. But policy planners and intelligence analysts differ in their ideas about what prompted this response and what the future holds. I enclose three documents which will give you the flavor of the thinking.

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3. I see the North Koreans responding as they always do to our initiatives: refusing use of diplomatic channels, issuing a public statement capable of various interpretations, trying to evoke a further response from the US through the use of the international media without tipping their own hand.

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4. In a sense, they have succeeded. The President has just published his decision on troop withdrawal (Tab D). I have not yet discovered who wrote it, but it is a beautifully reasoned, judicious document. Perhaps I stray into the policy pasture in saying that it contains everything that I would have liked included in the document. Kim Il-sung will have to respond which will give us further insight into his thinking. We will keep you informed to changes.

Nathaniel B. Thayer

Atts: (4) as stated

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